

STAFF COUNCIL REPORT, April 22, 2015
Celina Ryan, Chair

Key Issues: Engaging Staff and Serving the Community

1. Staff Council Representatives, 2014-2015

Staff Council Executives

Celina Ryan (Facilities/HR), Chair

Andrea Carpenter (Kogod, Associate Director, Career Development), Co-Chair

Adrian Sanchez (Career Center), Secretary

Staff Council Membership

Jennifer Baron-Knowles, Manager, Disability Services, Academic Support and Access Center

Akisha Carter, Financial Specialist, Finance Resource Center

Anna Castro, Administrative Assistant, Department of Justice, Law and Criminology, School of Public Affairs

Nakeesha Ceran, Assistant Director, Administration & One Card Programs, Housing & Dining

Sean Cullinane, Financial Administrator, Housing & Dining

David Fletcher, Career Advisor, School of International Service

James Helms, Administrative Assistant, Department of Government, School of Public Affairs

Jocelyn Hill, Director of Recreational Sports & Fitness, Recreational Sports and Fitness

Steve Kelly, Director, Customer Support Services, Office of Information Technology

Helen Lee, Zero Waste Coordinator, Facilities Management

Jeremy Lowe, Associate Director of Admissions, University Enrollment

Rena Munster, Designer, University Communications & Marketing

Marianne Norman, Academic Advisor, School of International Service

Valerie Rauenzahn, Graduate Programs Coordinator, School of Education, Teaching and Health

Heather A. Smith, Employee Relations Coordinator, Human Resources

Jordan Tobin, Director of Facilities and Operations, Athletics and Recreation

Michael Wargo, Campus Life Technology Coordinator, Office of Campus Life

2. Project Team and Committee Work

Representatives to External Committees:

Benefits Advisory Project Team: Celina Ryan

Dining Services: Marianne Norman

Disability Compliance Project Team: Jennifer Baron-Knowles

Sexual Harassment and Prevention Project Team: Heather A. Smith

Smoke- Tobacco Free Committee: Adrian Sanchez

Staff Appreciation Week: Adrian Sanchez

Campus Beautification Committee: Helen Lee

University Council: Celina Ryan (ex officio as chair)

University Budget Committee: Celina Ryan
Faculty Senate Representative: Jeremy Lowe
Transportation Task Force: Jeremy Lowe

Representatives to Board of Trustees Committees:

Representative to Academic Affairs Committee: Sean Cullinane
Representative to Alumni Affairs and Development Committee: Keesha Ceran
Representative to Athletics Committee: Adrian Sanchez
Representative to Campus Life Committee: Jocelyn Hill

3. Activities

Outreach

Staff Council (SC) connects with departments across campus during our semi-monthly meetings, in the interest of knowledge-sharing and establishing connections with AU departments and divisions. To kick off the Spring Semester, on January 7, Staff Council hosted a second Meet & Greet Breakfast to personally engage with AU staff. The event was a success, with attendance of 30-40 staff members despite the school delays that morning.

Staff Council submitted two memos for approval to HR to inform the AU public of available shower facilities and telecommuting/flexible working arrangements. The Student Government President Sophia Wirth visited the January 20 meeting for information sharing purposes and to begin building relationships across AU's various constituency groups.

On April 21, 2015, Staff Council held their offsite meeting at the WAMU building located at 4401 Connecticut Avenue. The council invited members of the building and we had two staff members join to learn more and ask questions of the council.

For the first time, Staff Council will host an "after hours" event during Staff Appreciation week on May 21, 2015 at 5:30pm. This is a chance for staff members to network and mingle off campus.

Service Initiatives

Staff Council celebrated Veterans at AU on November 12, where a light breakfast was served at the Veteran lounge in support of the approximately 300 veterans on campus. Additionally, three campus veterans attended the December 16 meeting for information sharing purposes and relationship building.

The Staff Council Annual Dollar Drive ended at the Holiday Party in December. Staff Council donated \$240 to support Martha's Table charitable programs. The Winter-Wear Drive was a success with 30 bags of clothing donated to A Wider Circle, a nearly 50% increase from last year. Staff Council thanks all staff who participated in these service initiatives to serve the community.

Staff Council participated in MLK Day of Service by partnering with the Center for Community Engagement. Liaisons served by helping with hot meals at Campus Kitchens and working with the United Planning Organization (UPO) in Downtown D.C.

During Staff Appreciation Week on May 21, Staff Council will host their final book and media swap of the year. Donations will go to Better World Books.

Web and Communications

Staff Council voted and passed the new branded motto “Engaging Staff and Serving the Community.” The motto appears on our website as well as a banner that will be used at events to help promote Staff Council’s visibility on campus. We also purchased branded lunch boxes and ID holders to be used as give-aways at events.

Human Resources

Topics which continue to be discussed with Human Resources include:

1. Staff merit pay
2. Diversity in the workplace
3. Telecommuting and commuting options
4. Parking limitations and challenges

Internal to Staff Council

Staff Council is working on succession planning. As new leaders emerge and term limits expire, the Council wants to make the transition as seamless as possible through planning, strategy, and knowledge sharing. So far, three members were promoted in their departments this year, so the Council voted to change a bylaw to encourage these staff to remain active during their new probation period, as long as schedule allows.